

On the complex issue of peace in Nagorno-Karabakh, significant progress has been made recently. Bilateral meetings between President Kocharian and President Aliyev have been frequent and intensive in response to our encouragement for greater results. Just hours before the attack, Prime Minister Sarkissian had met with President Kocharian and Deputy Secretary of State Talbott to discuss the peace process. Clearly, it will be difficult for Armenia to move forward without Sarkissian's presence—difficult, but not impossible.

Given the tremendous amount of progress Armenia has made since declaring independence from the Soviet Union, I am confident that the Armenian people will move past this tragic event and continue to build upon their successes. But the key to doing so is ongoing support from the United States. Together, our two countries have built strong ties, focusing upon a prosperous, secure and democratic future. It is critical that, in the midst of such overpowering grief, we renew our support for the people of Armenia and their leaders. As they continue to build upon the principles that the victims had worked to fulfill, the people of Armenia should know that the United States supports their efforts. I hope my colleagues will join me in sending this message to the Armenian people.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. PERCY G. HARRIS

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Dr. Percy G. Harris, a distinguished Iowan from Cedar Rapids who is retiring after forty years of practicing family medicine. His biography is truly a great American story.

Dr. Harris was born into a poor family in Mississippi in 1927. He was orphaned as a teenager and moved to Waterloo, Iowa to live with his aunt. High school was a struggle for Percy Harris, but he finally received his diploma at the age of 19. After that, he was determined to make something of his life, and set his sights on becoming a doctor. He was admitted to medical school at Howard University in Washington, DC. He paid his way by working as an elevator operator and janitor. After he received his medical degree, Dr. Harris returned to Cedar Rapids, Iowa to open a family practice.

His practice grew and flourished over four decades. His patients credit him with the old-fashioned virtue of patience and say he is always willing to spend extra time caring for them. He believes in giving back and is active in the community as a civil rights leader and as a volunteer athletic doctor for Jefferson High School.

Percy Harris's life is a list of firsts. He was the first African-American to hold an internship at St. Luke's Hospital in Cedar Rapids. He served as

Linn County, Iowa's first and only medical examiner. In 1977, Governor Robert Ray appointed him to the Iowa Board of Regents where he served two terms as the Board's first African-American member.

Dr. Harris encountered adversity along the way, but he chose to view it as a challenge rather than an obstacle. In 1961, he and his wife, Lileah, decided to build a home for their growing family. They set their sights on a piece of property in one of Cedar Rapids' all white neighborhoods. The neighbors were up in arms, but Percy and Lileah Harris persisted and eventually purchased the property in a dispute that gained national attention. They built their family home on the property and raised 12 fine children, all of whom are now grown and successful in their own right.

Mr. President, Dr. Harris is one in a long American tradition of medical practitioners who put patients before profits, who lead by example, and who dedicate themselves to the well-being of humankind, from their community to their nation. I congratulate him on his many achievements and wish him well in all future endeavors. I know wherever he chooses to put his many talents, he will leave his mark.●

IN HONOR OF TED WINTER'S 50TH BIRTHDAY

● Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I speak today to recognize a very special Minnesotan. Ted Winter will be celebrating his 50th birthday the day after Thanksgiving. Friends and family will be gathering at the American Legion in Fulda, Minnesota, to honor this very good and decent man.

It is very appropriate that this year his birthday falls so close to Thanksgiving because as a Minnesotan I am very thankful that Ted so ably represents the people of Southwestern Minnesota in the State Legislature; I am thankful that Ted continues to be a strong voice for those struggling to maintain their family farms; I am thankful that Ted struggles daily to ensure the vitality of our rural communities and that he is committed to a vision of Minnesota that is rich and diverse.

In the last few years, Ted has been the driving force behind uniting Midwest State Legislators in calling for a change in federal farm policy. He has been central in calling attention to the devastating effect the concentration of power in agriculture is having on family farmers. Day in and day out, Ted spends time away from his own farm to work with farm organizations and other farmers to come up with ways that family farmers can survive to farm another day. He drives throughout the state to make sure that any meeting discussing the future of Minnesota includes a discussion about the

future of family farms and rural communities.

I am pleased to be able to speak today to honor my friend, Ted Winter.●

HONORING KAREN LEACH

● Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise today to honor an outstanding individual who has dedicated her life to the education of our young people. Karen Leach of Johnston, Rhode Island, is retiring from the Providence School Department after nearly thirty years of dedicated service.

Since Karen graduated from Rhode Island College in 1969 with a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary and Special Education, she has received Masters of Education Degrees in both Elementary Education and in Administration for Elementary and Middle Schools. She has also furthered her professional development by achieving certification in many areas.

The capital of Rhode Island, Providence is at the heart of our state's urban center and during her career, Karen has been assigned to several schools in the District. Karen began her long and accomplished career as a teacher and dedicated her efforts toward Special Education. During her tenure, the field of education has seen tremendous change—from curriculum, to technology, to teaching methods and to administrative practices. Throughout nearly three decades of service, Karen has brought efficiency, expertise and professionalism to her many challenging assignments.

In 1988, Karen was named Supervisor of Elementary/Pre-School Education for the Providence School Department and in 1992, she became Principal of the Sackett Street Elementary School and the Reservoir Avenue Elementary School. Since the 1992-1993 school year, she has been Principal of the Sackett Street Elementary School and she is retiring from her present administrative position as Interim Acting Superintendent of Teaching and Learning.

Karen Leach is a person of great integrity, compassion and initiative. She is accomplished and well respected for her many contributions to the Providence School System. She has made a positive impact on the quality of education, and in the lives of students, especially those with special needs. Most recently, Karen's leadership as a Principal and as an Administrator has left a lasting mark on the City of Providence.

So many young people have had their lives enriched by one person's efforts. Karen Leach's commitment and her tangible accomplishments clearly demonstrate that an investment in education is indeed an investment in the future.

Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Karen Leach for her commitment to educational excellence and for her efforts to improve